

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

**1-8. (canceled).**

**9. (currently amended):** A method for preparing an ink-jet recording sheet including a support and a colorant receiving layer disposed on the surface of the support, wherein the method comprises:

coating a coating solution including inorganic fine particles, a water-soluble resin and a boron compound on the surface of the support to form a coated layer; and

cross-linking and hardening the coated layer to form a colorant receiving layer;

wherein the cross-linking and hardening is performed by applying a solution containing a metal compound and having a pH of 8 or higher to the coated layer or a coated film at a time selected from the following:

(1) at the same time as coating the coating solution;

(2) during drying of the coated layer formed by coating the coating solution and before the coated layer shows a falling rate of drying; or

(3) after the coated layer formed by coating the coating solution is dried to form the coated film according to claim 6,

wherein the inorganic fine particles are gas phase method silica having an average primary particle diameter of 20 nm or smaller, and the water-soluble resin is a polyvinyl alcohol and

wherein the boron compound is included in the coating solution at a mass ratio of 0.05 to 0.50 relative to the water-soluble resin.

**10-11. (canceled).**